

CITY OF VENTURA

FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Date Of Release: February 3, 2022
Fire Incident Number: 22-0010766
Incident Commander: Battalion Chief Matt Brock
Incident Type: Vegetation fire threatening structures
Date/Time of Incident: 02/03/2022, 12:21 pm
Incident Location: 5000 blk of Telegraph Rd. Ventura, CA 93003
Cause/Origin: under investigation
Injuries Reported: None
Units Committed On-Scene: 21
Total Fire Personnel On-Scene: 106
Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire, Oxnard Fire, Ventura County Fire,

Narrative: Fire units were dispatched to a reported vegetation fire threatening structures. Units arrived to find a growing fire in a watershed barranca. Fire crews made an aggressive attack on the fire and thankfully prevented spread to nearby buildings. Several medical offices, restaurants and a charter high school were evacuated and closed temporarily by the fire. One backyard outbuilding and several residential fences bordering the barranca were damaged by the fire. No injuries were reported. The fire originated in an area that is utilized as a flood control channel and is posted No Trespassing. No responsible party was identified, and the exact cause is under investigation. Aid was provided to the city of Ventura from the Ventura County and Oxnard Fire Departments including a 20-person wild-land handcrew to help with fully extinguishing the fire in the heavy vegetation. Telegraph Rd between Day Rd. and Bryn Mar St. was closed to through traffic for several hours.

The Ventura City Fire Department is committed to working with the City's Safe & Clean Program and regional partners to address any ongoing life-safety and property threats posed by homeless encampments in Ventura. Fires can occur in the river bottom because of unsheltered individuals living in the area who use fire for warmth and cooking. These fires can grow quickly and produce a lot of smoke because of strong winds, dry brush, fuel, and tall grasses.

The City's Safe and Clean program continues to work on long-term housing solutions and provides preventative resources for our most vulnerable populations. Safe & Clean works proactively with the Ventura Police Patrol Task Force, the Ventura City Fire Department, various social service providers, and community partners to clean up brush and debris in the riverbeds. City staff also

visits these areas weekly to share education, health, and social services to unsheltered individuals, who legally, cannot be relocated from the river bottom to a safer location.

Due to HIPAA we are prevented from disclosing an individual's protected health information (PHI). We may not release information regarding patient's names, DOB, address, SS# or medical status. All photos are free from copyright and may reproduced as necessary.